

NORTH BEND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 7, 2013

Senior Center, 411 Main Ave. S., North Bend, Washington

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL:

Mayor Hearing called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Cook, Gothelf, Kolodejchuk, Loudenback, Pettersen, and Rosen. Councilmember Williamson was excused.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes – Council Meeting of April 16, 2013, Council Workstudy of March 26, 2013

Payroll – April 19, 2013 – 26901 through 26907, in the amount of **\$110,232.54**

Checks – May 7, 2013 – 58050 through 58128, in the amount of **\$268,557.98**

AB13-047 – Motion Authorizing InvoiceCloud Contract for Online Utility Bill Payments

AB13-048 – Motion Authorizing Vision Forms Contract for Utility Bill Mailings

Councilmember Rosen **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Loudenback to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion **PASSED** 6-0.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Dave Olson, 440 Main Ave. S, reported the Kiwanis Club would be collecting donations for Eastside Baby Corner at their annual Swap Meet on May 18 and 19th at Meadowbrook Farm. He commented that the yearly scholarships awarded from proceeds generated from the annual fireworks sales had been given to five worthy recipients in the valley and thanked the City for allowing the Kiwanis Club to continue this worthwhile fundraising effort.

Jim Curtis, Thrasher Ave. NE, discussed information he had obtained as a result of a public disclosure request he made to the King County Sheriff's Office, which was related to a recent incident involving Mayor Hearing. He noted the documents indicated that all charges against the Mayor had been dismissed, however despite this fact; Mr. Curtis called for the Mayor's resignation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS, APPOINTMENTS:

Presentation – King County Metro Proposed Service Changes

Matt Hansen, King County Metro Supervisor for Marketing Development, reported King County Metro had been looking at Alternative Service Delivery in the Snoqualmie Valley following a directive from the King County Council. This directive was based on policy guidelines received from a Regional Transit Task Force investigating transportation issues

in the Puget Sound area. He explained as a result of this directive Metro's focus was now on service productivity, social equity and geographic value. Beginning in October of 2012 they had held several collaborative meetings with Snoqualmie Valley residents, elected officials and community organizations seeking to design a public transportation system that would meet the Valley's unique needs while enhancing mobility for residents in a way that was more cost effective.

He reported Metro was recommending Route 209 be converted to a peak commuter route, adding a new Route 208 that would provide hourly service Monday through Saturday between North Bend and Issaquah, and adding a new Intra-Valley Shuttle service. These changes would provide all day service to the rapidly growing Snoqualmie Ridge area and the "right size" service in the area with the proposed addition of the Intra-Valley Shuttle to be serviced by Snoqualmie Valley Transportation. However, some of the lower valley routes including Route 311 and 224 that serve Duvall would see a reduction or modification in service. Mr. Hansen concluded by noting that there would be no net decrease of service in the valley overall and that these proposed changes would be presented to the King County Council in May for review and a final decision.

In response to Council inquiries, Mr. Hansen responded that the proposed changes if approved would take place in September of this year and riders would be notified of the change in service by receiving electronic rider alerts or postings at bus stops. Additionally, he elaborated on the ramifications of reduction of services should state funding be reduced and explained despite this consideration Metro was committed to providing the Snoqualmie Valley bus service as its policy was not to eliminate last connections.

INTRODUCTIONS:

AB13-049 – Motion Authorizing Mayor/Council Benefits through AWC Benefit Trust

City Administrator Lindell reported at the January 25th Council Retreat Councilmembers discussed criteria under which elected officials may participate in the AWC Trust Benefits currently being offered by the city for medical, dental, vision, life, and long term disability. In order for a city to offer medical coverage, 50% of all elected officials must be enrolled. For example, with the Mayor and seven Councilmembers, at least four individuals must enroll in the medical plan. Alternatively if the Council did not wish to participate they may still authorize just the Mayor to be able to participate in AWC benefits.

At this time there was not enough interest from Councilmembers to meet the 50% threshold. However, the City did wish to consider the significant time commitment the Mayor allocates to City business and the value the Mayor brings to the City, and authorize Mayor benefits. Additionally, in order to recruit and retain outstanding candidates and officials for public office, the City wished to offer these same benefits to Councilmembers if or when the city meets the minimum criteria established by AWC for participation (currently 4). In order to do this the city was required to pay 50% of the premium for

medical; 75% for dental; and 100% must be paid for vision. The remaining balance would be paid by the participating elected official through payroll deduction.

The payment of these medical benefits was allowed by state law and was not considered additional compensation. RCW 41.04.190 provided in pertinent part that the “the cost of a policy or plan to a public agency or body was not additional compensation to the employees or elected officials covered thereby”. The legislature’s intent in adopting this statute was to allow elected officials to be added to a city or other governmental agencies medical or other policies without triggering certain rules surrounding increasing an elected official’s salary. These benefits may be revoked by Council at any time in the future by a simple change to the AWC Master Participation Agreement.

Ms. Lindell noted that this item had been reviewed at the April 23rd Workstudy, and by the Finance & Administration Committee on May 7th who recommended passage at the required rates of 50% medical, 75% dental, and 100 % vision.

Councilmember Gothelf **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Kolodejchuk to approve AB13-049, authorizing Mayor and Elected Official benefits through membership in the AWC Employee Benefit Trust. The motion **PASSED** 5-1 (Rosen).

MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND ADMINISTRATOR CONCERNS AND INITIATIVES:

Councilmember Rosen expressed his thoughts on the addition of elected officials to the City’s health insurance plan. He stated he fully supported the Mayor receiving paid benefits as he often spent in excess of thirty to forty hours a week on his mayoral duties. However, when he proposed Councilmembers have the option to obtain insurance his intention was that they have access to quality health insurance but pay one hundred percent of the cost so as not to create an additional burden on the tax payers.

Councilmember Kolodejchuk explained he supported the addition of the Mayor and Councilmembers onto the City’s health insurance plan because it served as a way to encourage the existing Councilmembers or other community members with excellent qualification to run for office. He added that at a recent meeting of the Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Board it was reported that the Swing Rock survey was complete and a certified copy of the report would be forwarded to City Administrator Lindell.

Councilmember Pettersen thanked Danny Kolke of Boxley’s, Community & Economic Development Director Estep, and the many volunteers that helped with the recent Blues Walk event in Downtown. She commented she had heard many positive comments about the event from both upper and lower valley residents.

Councilmember Cook noted that during a recent family outing on the Snoqualmie Valley Trail he had observed the Friends of the Trail organization cleaning up debris left behind from homeless encampments near the trail. He thanked Wade Holden and other Friends of the Trail members for all of their efforts and suggested that they be considered for community services funding in the future. Additionally, he requested the King County

Sheriff's Office continue in their efforts to enforce the problem areas in the woods near the trail.

Mayor Hearing commented that the number of required participants in the City' medical plan was set by AWC Trust and with Council's permission he would inquire if AWC would be willing to be more lenient with their fifty percent participation requirement for elected officials. He asked them to notify him if they had any objections to his suggestion.

Mayor Hearing announced that the Snoqualmie Valley Teen Closet would be holding a free Teen Clothing Bank event on Wednesday, May 8th from 5 to 7 p.m. at Mt Si Lutheran Church. Additionally, he requested all citizens consider attending the Heart of the Valley Event that would be held at Centennial Field on Sunday, May 19th. Evening Magazine would be present to film the event which would begin at 2 p.m. with outlining of the heart shape. More information about both events was available on the City website at www.northbendwa.gov.

Executive Session

Mayor Hearing recessed the regular meeting for an executive session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss potential litigation, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). No action would be taken as a result of the executive session, which was expected to last approximately 15 minutes and videotaping of the meeting ceased.

At 8:00 p.m. Community & Economic Development Director Estep announced to audience members outside the meeting room that the Executive Session was expected to last an additional 10 minutes.

At 8:10 p.m. Community & Economic Development Director Estep announced to audience members outside the meeting room that the Executive Session was expected to last an additional 10 minutes.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Gothelf **MOVED** to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Loudenback. The motion **PASSED** 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Kenneth G. Hearing, Mayor

Susie Oppedal, City Clerk